THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development in its 115th Report has made certain recommendations/ observations on the action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in its 31st Report on Functioning of Central Government Hospitals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated action on the recommendations/ observations of the Parliamentary Committee.

Manufacturers of spurious drugs

4829. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Spurious drugs flood Indian market", which appeared in the Asian Age, dated 19th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of the companies found manufacturing spurious drugs particularly life saving drugs;

(c) whether Government propose to notify to the press the names of traders/ manufacturers of spurious drugs; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the feedback given by the State Licensing Authorities, out of the 35,570 and 33,760 samples tested during the period 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, 115 & 112 samples respectively were found to be spurious which is approximately 0.33%. 17 cases related to spurious drugs have been reported from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and U.P. in the last two years. 68 persons have been arrested in this regard during the period 2000-2001.

Manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity indulged in by certain unscrupulous persons to copy through imitation certain leader brands of established manufacturers. Hence no specific reports are available

from Licensing Authorities where licensed manufacturing companies were found manufacturing spurious drugs. After investigations of the cases unearthed and detected, such persons when apprehended are prosecuted in the court of law as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. Since these persons are not licensed manufacturers or traders of drugs, the publication of their names will not be of any significance. Therefore, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government to publish the names of the persons involved in the manufacture and trading of spurious drugs.

Muscle damage by excessive mobile phone messaging

4830. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excessive mobile phone messaging could lead to muscle damage and the risk is much to children;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cellphone messaging is on the increase in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avert health hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to ICMR, none of the available studies regarding Mobile Phone usage demonstrate any ill effect including muscle damage.

Palliative care for cancer patients

4831. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first foundation course on palliative care for cancer patients was inaugurated by him in Delhi;

(b) if so, the areas the course covered;

(c) whether palliative care for cancer patients has been provided by the Government hospitals around the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts taken by Government to provide palliative care for cancer patients and general awareness about the symptoms of cancer in the hospitals and all over the country?